Afro-Asian Satellite Company Project

513. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afro-Asian Satellite Company Project which plans to provide uninterrupted Communication facilities through the satellite across 54 countries has since been approved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) M/s. ASC Enterprises Limited (Afro-Asian Satellite Company) plan to provide Global Mobile personal Communication Service (GMPCS) using a gco-stationary satellite system with business focus in India, according to information furnished by the company. However, their Satellite coverage area includes India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan & UAE. The company, at present, docs not have firm plans to provide services in other countries except India and UAE. The company is yet to apply for a licence in India in the prescribed application form. The form and other details have been sent to the company for doing the needful.

Telephone Facilities in Villages

514. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in each State which are without telephone facilities within their reach, indicating the percentage of the States' population so deprived;

(b) whether any action plan under the ninth plan is contemplated to provide at least one telephone connection per hundred population in each village, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of percentage of Village Panchayats still deprived of telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There are 607,491 villages in the country, out which 310,019 have been provided with telecom facilities upto 31.10.98.

297,472 villages i.e. 49% villages and population therein do not have access to. the telecom facility yet. State-wise data is provided in the enclosed statement *(See* below).

(b) The objectives of 9th five year plan are:—

* To provide one public telephone in each of the village not having telephone facility;
* To provide telephone on demand in all the villages.

The number of telephones per 100 population in any village will depend on the actual demand concentration with respect to population.

(c). In the whole of country 45,612 Panchayat villages do not have telecom facility yet. There are 238,977 Panchayats villages and 193,365 have already been provided with telecom facility.

Statement

State-wise Duta for Telecom Facilities in Villages as on 31-10-1998

SI. No.	States	No. of villages in the state	Villages provided with telecom facilities	Vill ages not having telecom facility	Percentage of Villages not having telecom facility
I.	A & N	282	178	104	37
2.	AP	29460	22933	6527	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3599	557	3042	85

SI. No.	States	No, of villages in the state	Villages provided with telecom facilities	Villages not having telecom facility	Percentage of Villages not having telecom facility
4.	AS	22224	10568	11656	52
5.	BH	79208	19088	60120	76
6.	Delhi	191	191	0	0
7	GJ	18125	13923	4202	23
8.	Goa	407	361	46	11
9.	HP	16997	6710	10287	61
10.	HY	6850	6807	43	1
11.	IK	6764	2683	4081	60
12.	KL	1530	1530	0	0
13.	KT	27066	21544	5522	20
14.	Manipur	2394	605	1789	75
15.	Meghalaya	5629	984	4645	83
16.	MH	42060	28908	13152	31
17.	Mizoram	770	577	193	25
18.	MP	71526	39245	32281	45
19.	Nagaland	1192	528	664	56
20.	OR	46989	19213	27776	59
21.	PB	12687	11938	749	6
22.	RJ	38634	21345	17289	45
23.	Sikkim	427	211	216	51
24.	TN	17991	17648	343	2,
25.	Tripura	862	549	313	36
26.	UPE	75698	31254	44444	59
27.	UPW	39551	16861	22690	57
28.	WB	38378	13080	25251	66
	TOTAL	607491	310019	297425	49

Enhancement of Local Call Rates

515. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Government have plans to cut ,down the number of free calls oh a telephone and hike the local call rates, it has substantially reduced by about 60% the STD and ISD cal rates; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how far the step cuts into the pocket of common local phone users, while benefitting trade, business and long distance phone users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA); (a) No, Sir. The Department of